



MEDIA RELEASE

Woman Arrested for Possession of Counterfeit Checks

SANTA BARBARA, CA – 12/15/11

ON 12/06/2011 Santa Barbara Police Department detectives received a call from the United States Secret Service informing them that they believed fraudulent money orders were being shipped to Santa Barbara from Nigeria. The US Secret Service further informed the Santa Barbara Police Department that US customs had intercepted two packages being shipped to Santa Barbara from Nigeria and they contained 258 counterfeit money orders. One package made it through to Santa Barbara. The packages were addressed to a local mail box store intended for Passion Moore. The US Secret Service followed up on the information and confirmed that Passion Moore was a customer of the mail box store. The Secret Service seized and subsequently turned over the money orders to the Santa Barbara Police Department.

On 12/12/11 agents from the Secret Service and detectives from the Santa Barbara Police department set up surveillance at the mail box store and at approximately 10:00 a.m. observed Moore arrive at the store and pick up a package. Detectives then followed Moore as she drove to various locations in the City before stopping on the 300 Block of N. Nopal Street. Detectives contacted Moore and confirmed that she had picked up a package at the store. A search of her vehicle revealed a backpack with several hundred money orders with the name "Citibank" on them listing their value at \$1,800.35 each. Detectives seized the money orders and arrested Moore. Detectives confirmed that the money orders were counterfeit. After counting up all the money orders seized on 12/12/11, the listed value on them came to \$437,485.00. As a result of the multi-agency investigation, a possible total loss of \$700,000 was prevented. Passion Moore, age 47, was booked into Santa Barbara County Jail for possessing of counterfeit checks. Her bail was set at \$500,000. The contact person for this investigation is Detective John Ingram, (805) 897-2331.

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